

Princeton Update June 2006:

Budget: The Library has received an addition of \$1.1 million to the base material acquisitions budget. This addition is intended to address new initiatives, for example neurosciences and performing arts, and also areas of stress in the budget, of which there are many.

Acquisitions: The above is the good news; the bad news is that we can't expect additional staff to help us spend this money. As a result, we are continuing to experiment with efficiencies from online ordering on vendor sites to expanding approval plans, and everything in between. The staff we have are increasingly dedicated to specialized areas of acquisitions leaving less staff for the routine, thus driving our efforts to streamline further.

Cataloging: At long last (three years long), we are about to post an opening for a Director of Cataloging and Metadata Services – a new title formerly called “Head, Catalog Division.” Even without a permanent head, the Division has made great strides toward reorganizing to increase productivity. Much of the work that had been done by copy catalogers is now handled by student assistants; copy catalogers now do much of what had been done by professional catalogers; and professional staff now handle original cataloging which currently has expanded to address large and numerous collections of grey literature and other holdings that traditionally fell entirely outside the scope of officially supported cataloging. Initial pilots are underway that will result in the direction of much of this energy toward non-MARC metadata schemas in the future. Over all our hold (backlog) of print material is down significantly.

The LC series decision has led us to re-examine our series procedures, and we have adopted a temporizing posture for the time being. Already much LC copy and purchased cataloging were accepted without series verification. We will expand that, but will continue to provide heading control for series on standing order which are classed together. We will continue to follow PCC standards for original cataloging for the near term and evaluate as we go along.

Circulation: Ongoing space planning issues continue to be a demanding challenge as we look forward to the inauguration of the next module of our shared remote storage facility in January 2008. A new effort has recently gotten underway to convert our original off-site facility to other non-Library purposes requiring the relocation of its ca. 720,000 holdings to the shared facility in the next few years. A large proportion of these holdings lack item control (bar codes) and represent preservation problems.

Electronic resources: Princeton shared in the field testing of the 1.5 upgrade to Endeavor's Meridian. We are pleased with the added functionality which addressed some serious lacks in the original release and are gradually incorporating Meridian into our workflow, starting with the acquisitions end of e-resource management.

Staff: In addition to the above mentioned Director for Cataloging and Metadata Services, we are in the opening stages of searching for a head of Library Human Resources, a head of the Marquand Art Library, and Associate University Librarians for both Collection Development and for Instructional and Reference Services.